

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (currently amended)** A pants-type disposable wearing article, comprising: having a longitudinal direction,

a waist-surrounding direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction,

a chassis defining a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region extending in said longitudinal direction

between said front and rear waist regions, an elasticized waist-hole, and a pair of elasticized leg-holes, ~~said article comprising~~

~~a chassis and~~ an absorbent structure extending on an inner surface of said chassis between said front and rear waist regions, and

a plurality of auxiliary elastic members secured to said chassis in a stretched state and extending in said waist surrounding direction so as to cross said absorbent structure in at least one of said front and rear waist regions, ~~said article further comprising:~~

each of said plurality of auxiliary elastic members having, in said waist surrounding direction, opposite end portions and a middle portion located between said opposite end portions in said waist surrounding direction,

said opposite end portions being secured to said chassis in vicinities of transversely opposite side edges of the one of said front and rear waist regions while said middle portion being free of direct securement to said chassis in the one of said front and rear waist regions.
- 2. (currently amended)** The article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein said chassis comprises an outer sheet and an inner sheet joined at a plurality of joining sites.

3. **(currently amended)** The article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein said ~~plurality of~~ joining sites are distributed at least in an area underlying ~~[[of]]~~ said absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions, ~~are so as to be~~ spaced one from another by a given space in said longitudinal direction, and are located between the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members.

4. **(currently amended)** The article according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 3, wherein said plurality of joining sites are distributed in ~~[[the]]~~ a vicinity of transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

5. **(currently amended)** A pants-type disposable wearing article having a longitudinal direction, a waist-surrounding direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction, a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region, an elasticized waist-hole and a pair of elasticized leg-holes, said article comprising a chassis and an absorbent structure extending on an inner surface of said chassis between said front and rear waist regions, and a plurality of auxiliary elastic members secured to said chassis in a stretched state in said waist surrounding direction so as to cross said absorbent structure in at least one of said front and rear waist regions, said article further comprising:

said plurality of auxiliary elastic members having opposite end portions and a middle portions in said waist surrounding direction, said opposite end portions being secured to said chassis in vicinities of opposite side edges of the one of said front and rear waist regions while said middle portion being free to said chassis in the one of said front and rear waist regions

~~The article according to Claim 1,~~ wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a contracted state thereof is generally equal to a corresponding length of the absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions.

6. **(currently amended)** The article according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, further comprising wherein, in the one of said front and rear waist regions, a picture fancy element is depicted on said chassis in ~~[[the]]~~ an area ~~[[of]]~~ underlying said absorbent structure.

7. **(currently amended)** The article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein said absorbent structure comprises

a liquid-pervious inner sheet adapted to face facing a wearer's body,

a substantially liquid-impervious outer sheet disposed on the inner surface of said chassis,

and

a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious inner sheet and said substantially liquid-impervious outer sheet.

8. **(currently amended)** The article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein said absorbent structure comprises

a liquid-pervious inner sheet, and

a liquid-absorbent core having a top surface thereof covered with said liquid-pervious inner sheet and a back surface thereof covered with said chassis.

9. **(currently amended)** The article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein said front and rear waist regions of said chassis are joined to each other at the transversely opposite side edges thereof ~~to each other~~.

10. **(currently amended)** The article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ a pair of leakage-barrier flaps that extend along [[the]] transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

11. **(new)** The article according to claim 1, wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a unstretched state thereof is generally equal to a corresponding length of the absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions.

12. **(new)** The article according to claim 1, wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a unstretched state thereof is greater than a corresponding length of the absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions by 1-5 mm.

13. **(new)** The article according to claim 2, wherein
each of said auxiliary elastic members is positioned between said inner and outer sheets;
the middle portion of each of said auxiliary elastic members connects the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member, and extends across an entire width of said absorbent structure in the waist-surrounding direction from one of transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to the other; and

an entire section of said middle portion which is located between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure is directly bonded neither to the inner sheet nor to the outer sheet.

14. **(new)** The article according to claim 13, wherein said joining sites are distributed between every pair of adjacent said auxiliary elastic members and between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

15. **(new)** The article of claim 14, wherein said joining sites are arranged only along and in vicinities of the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

16. **(new)** The article of claim 14, wherein said joining sites limit displacement of the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members in the longitudinal direction without affecting contractibility of said middle portions in the waist-surrounding direction.

17. **(new)** The article of claim 1, wherein each of said auxiliary elastic members is entirely free of direct attachment to said chassis except at the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member.

18. **(new)** The article of claim 6, wherein the middle portions of some of said auxiliary elastic members underlie and extend across said picture without causing gathers to be formed in the area of said chassis, thereby preventing the picture in said area from being distorted.

19. **(new)** The article of claim 1, wherein said auxiliary elastic members are disposed between and spaced in the longitudinal direction from said elasticized waist hole and said elasticized leg holes.

20. **(new)** The article of claim 19, wherein an area of said chassis, which underlies said absorbent structure and across which said auxiliary elastic members extend, are substantially free of gathers.